

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SY-05 L-03 /062 W

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P R 151431Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO AMCONSUL ASMARA PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 879

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

DIA WASHDC

ONI WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 7921

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: APER PINR

SUBJECT: ESTIFANOS, ZEREYOHANNES, ETHIOPIAN CITIZEN

1. SUBJECT CALLED ON PERSONNEL OFFICER TODAY TO REQUEST HELP IN SECURING EMPLOYMENT EITHER WITHIN GREECE OR ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE. HE CARRIED A LETTER OF INTRODUCTION FROM CONSUL DONALD M. WELCH. THE LETTER WAS ADDRESSED "TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN" AND STATED CONSUL'S NAME COULD BE USED AS A REFERENCE.

2. MR. ESTIFANOS SAID THAT HE IS A PHARMACEUTICAL SALESMAN, WHO WAS ARRESTED BY THE ETHIOPIAN MILITARY AND TORTURED FOR ALLEGED CONNECTIONS WITH THE ELF OR PLF AND WITH THE AMERICANS IN ASMARA. HE SAID IF HE HAD NOT WITHSTOOD THE TORTURE MANY AMERICANS MIGHT HAVE BEEN "EMBARRASSED."

3. SUBJECT GAVE AS ATHENS REFERENCE, CDR. M.E. EMMERSON, USN, WHO CONFIRMED TO PERSONNEL OFFICER THAT HE KNEW HIM AND KNEW FROM PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE THAT ESTIFANOS HAD BEEN ARRESTED AND TORTURED. HE CONFIRMED SUBJECT HAD BEEN OF ASSISTANCE TO NAVY COMMUNICATIONS GROUP IN ASMARA, AND THAT IF REGULATIONS ALLOWED HE WOULD GIVE HIM A JOB IN
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ATHENS.

4. ESTIFANOS HAS ETHIOPIAN PASSPORT 62174, IDENTIFYING HIM AS A SEAMAN, AND CONTAINING AN EXIT VISA FROM ASMARA AND A VALID TOURIS VISA FOR GREECE. HE WAS VAGUE ON HOW HE LEFT ETHIOPIA, BUT SAID THE AUTHORITIES ALLOWED HIM TO LEAVE, AND THAT AS SOON AS HE HAS EMPLOYMENT, HE WILL BE ALLOWED TO BRING OUT HIS WIFE AND TWO YOUNG CHILDREN.

5. BEFORE LEAVING, ESTIFANOS ASKED IF HE MIGHT TALK TO A POLITICAL OFFICER. HE ASKED THIS OFFICER TO RELAY TO THE CONSULATE GENERAL THE INFORMATION THAT THE ARABS ARE PUTTING STRONG PRESSURE ON THE FRONT TO START KILLING AMERICANS.

6. REQUEST CONSULATE GENERAL PROVIDE PERTINENT INFORMATION TO EMBASSY ATHENS CONCERNING SUBJECT AND ADVISE IF WE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO HELP HIM. ANSWER IS NEEDED BY OPENING OF BUSINESS MONDAY, OCTOBER 20.
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